

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
March 12, 2007

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer
Absent: Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2007 meeting.
Seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the motion passed with Mr. Schaefer abstaining.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad requested a moment of silence to honor U.S. Military personnel who have fallen in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, requested that the Town Council approve the resolution supporting the Partnership's application before PZC. (Statement Attached)

Peter Millman, 122 Dog Lane and a member of the Planning and Design Subcommittee of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, spoke in favor of the text and map amendment currently before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Millman stated that he has been impressed with the attentiveness of the developers to the concerns of the community and feels that this is a project that the Town will be proud of and is what it needs.

Robert Coughlin, 49 Storrs Heights Road, noted that although he agrees that it would be nice to have a community center with shops and restaurants he does have some concerns regarding the proposed project. Mr. Coughlin feels that the project is overly ambitious and will add to the gridlock on Rte. 195. He is concerned that if the project fails the developer would own the land. He also suggested that the project be done in phases and not as one six -year endeavor. Mr. Coughlin would like to see more of a New England look with perhaps a saltbox style house in the center and is worried that the housing and business mix might produce another Hunting Lodge Road situation. Mr. Coughlin also questioned the assumptions made in the traffic study, noting that these assumptions are not within the control of the Town but are used to determine a finding of minimal traffic impact.

A motion to make Item 5 the first order of business was made by Mr. Paulhus seconded by Ms. Blair and passed by all.

5. Proclamation in Honor of Girl Scout Week

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective March 12, 2007, to authorize Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of Girl Scout Week.

Motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Haddad, accompanied by the entire Council, presented the Proclamation in Honor of Girl Scout Week to Troop 5577. Representatives of the Scouts urged members of the audience to participate in the blood drive they are sponsoring on March 23, 2007 at Southeast School.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Matthew Hart, the Town Manager, reported that plans for Spring Weekend are being finalized and that the DUI checks and extra State Police presence have been organized. He stated that he hopes partygoers conduct themselves in a responsible manner and thanked, in advance, all those who work so hard to protect and assist the community during this event.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Ms. Koehn requested clarification as to where the data for projected water withdrawals are in the plan. The Town Manager noted that this document outlines the strategy and the actual plan is still being devised. He will check to see if the water withdrawal data is in the actual plan.

3. Registrar and Deputy Registrar Compensation

Mr. Hawkins moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, retroactive to January 1, 2007, to set the pay rate for the Registrars at \$20.02 per hour, and the pay rate for Deputy Registrars at \$15.02 per hour.

Deputy Mayor Haddad commented that the Personnel Committee had reviewed the compensation and found it to be fair and comparable to other area towns. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Acceptance of Various Town Roads

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective March 13, 2007, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart, subject to the conditions cited below, to accept Jackson Lane as a Town road. Town acceptance shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Developer replacement of two intersection warning signs on South Bedlam Road and
2. Execution by the Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Mansfield Controller, and the developer of a one-year maintenance bond agreement that addressed all regulatory requirements and approval conditions.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5. Proclamation in Honor of Girl Scout Week

Previously addressed.

6. Mansfield Charter Revision Commission, Request for Extension

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Council has established a Charter Revision Commission pursuant to Section 7-190(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes;

And, WHEREAS, said Section 7-190(b) requires the Town Council to specify by resolution when the Commission shall submit its draft to the Town Clerk, who, pursuant to General Statutes Section 7-191 (b), shall then transmit such report to the Council;

And WHEREAS, by previous resolution adopted on March 27, 2006 the Town Council has established that the Charter Revision Commission must provide its draft report to the Town Clerk by April 2, 2007;

And WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to amend its previous resolution to provide that the Charter Revision Commission must provide its draft report to the Town Clerk by May 11, 2007:

And WHEREAS, all other provisions of the March 27, 2006 resolution issued by the Town Council to establish the Charter Revision Commission shall remain in force;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Charter Revision Commission shall review and make recommendations in its report concerning the Mansfield Town Charter and related subjects, and provide its draft report to the Town Clerk by May 11, 2007, for submission to the Town Council.

Town Attorney, Dennis O'Brien, outlined the effect the extension might have on the desire of the Council to place the Charter revisions on the November ballot. He feels that a short extension would not greatly change the chance for inclusion on this year's ballot. In response to questions Stephen Bacon, Charter Revision Commission Chair, stated that the Commission feels that they can complete their work with this extension which is well within the sixteen-month limit set by the Connecticut General Statutes.

Motion passed unanimously,

7. Pay Grade, Deputy Chief/Emergency Management Director Position

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded effective March 12, 2007, to set the pay grade for the Deputy Chief (Fire Marshal)/Emergency Management position at grade 23 of the town administrators pay plan.

Deputy Mayor Haddad stated that the Personnel Committee also reviewed and endorsed this change in classification.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Classification of Executive Assistant to Town Manager Position

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective March 12, 2007, to replace the Management Assistant position with the position of Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, and to set the pay grade for the Executive Assistant to the Town Manager position at grade 15 of the town administrators pay plan.

Deputy Mayor Haddad noted that this change was also reviewed and endorsed by the Personnel Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Applications(s) to Department of Economic and Community Development for Small Cities Program Funds

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective March 12, 2007, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 at the Town Council's regular meeting on March 26, 2007, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed Application(s) to the Department of Economic and Community Development for Small Cities Programs Funds.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Amendments to Mansfield Housing Code

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective March 12, 2007, to schedule a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on March 26, 2007, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Mansfield Housing Code.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. Planning and Zoning Commission Referral: Downtown Zoning Applications

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective March 12, 2007, to communicate to the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission the Town Council's support for the two applications submitted by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. and Storrs Center Alliance, LLC, which applications are necessary to establish the Storrs Center Special Design District.

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Ms. Koehn asked what an affirmative vote on this motion means. Does it mean support for the application to take it to the next step or does it mean approval for all aspects of the project? Mr. Clouette commented that a "yes" vote would be an endorsement of the general concept of the Special Design District and the accompanying approval process and that anything beyond that would be

usurping the authority of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Hawkins noted that in some ways the motion is redundant since the Council unanimously approved the Municipal Development Plan. Mr. Schafer stated that the Council is being asked to reaffirm their earlier support with a far more detailed plan before them and that a "yes" vote would not be a major statement but anything else would be a major negative statement.

In favor: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer
Abstaining: Koehn

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

- Noting that a new Senior Center policy allows for membership for seniors who do not live in Town, Ms. Koehn asked if area towns had reciprocal agreements. The Town Manager commented that seniors from Mansfield attend the Sweeney Center in Willimantic but will check with other area towns.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Schaefer reported that he, the Town Manager and the Finance Director met with the Charter Revision Commission to discuss how the Council conducts their overview of the financial responsibilities of the Town.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Redding announced her resignation from the Town Council effective March 27, 2007 (statement attached). Ms. Redding expressed her gratitude at having been able to serve on the Council and said that she found it to be an enriching experience. She urged her fellow Council members to continue to offer their special and individual perspectives as each one is so important to the good governance of the Town. Her last meeting will be March 26th.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Matthew Hart thanked Ms. Redding for all her work commenting that it has been a pleasure to work with her.

At the next Town Council meeting Patrick Mc Mahon, a specialist in economic development and a colleague of Mr. Hart, will conduct a presentation on sustainable economic development.

Mr. Hart and his staff have been exploring tools and systems to use to help evaluate programs and initiatives that have been enacted by the Council

Town Manager Report attached

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Mr. Schaefer requested that the name of the publication and date be included with the information.

12. Advance 'Measures Explored to Improve Safety on N. Eagleville Road'
13. S. Dyer re: Artwork at the Mansfield Community Center
14. Municipal Management Bulletin 'UConn and DEP Launch New Website to Assist Municipalities With Land Use Decisions'
15. Storm water Sampling Report, 4th Quarter, Stadium Road Detention Basin, UConn
16. S. Thomas re: Commission on Aging

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move into Executive Session.
Motion passed unanimously.

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer
Also Present: Matthew Hart, Town Manager, Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager

Issues: Labor Relations
Open Space Acquisition

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded a motion to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk